

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 094257
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 AGRE-00 OPIC-03 COME-00
ICA-11 TRSE-00 STR-07 XMB-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 /060 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:RJKOTT:HMN
APPROVED BY AF:TWMSMITH
EB:RHORMATS (INFO)
AID/AFR/DR:HJONES (INFO)
AID/RDP:TMOSE (INFO)
AID/AFR/CAWA:NOLSEN (INFO)
USDA/IDS:QWEST (INFO)
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
OPIC, USDOC
-----109952 130018Z /15
P 122236Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

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DAR ES SALAAM FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, NI

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC BILATERALS: GROUP III, AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

REF: STATE 92554

1. THIS THIRD OF FOUR MESSAGES BEING SENT BY AF/W TO
PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH STATUS OF PLANNING IN WORKING GROUPS
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FOR FORTHCOMING ECONOMIC BILATERAL TALKS. THIS MESSAGE
COVERS MEETING HELD APRIL 12 ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT ONLY.

2. PARTICIPANTS AT GROUP THREE MEETING ON AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT WERE AF/W, AID/CAWA, AID/RDP, AID/
AFR/DR, AND USDA/IDS. GROUP PROPOSED PROVIDING DELEGATION

BACKGROUND PAPERS IN FOLLOWING SUBJECTS: PLANNING/ MANAGEMENT/EVALUATION (INCLUDING TRAINING) ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL PLANNING UNIT WITHIN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: DATA BASE DEVELOPMENT: AGRO-BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES (INCLUDING LAND DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTIFICATION OF OTHER INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES); TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY (INCLUDING METHODS OF ADAPTATION); SOIL CONSERVATION.IRRIGATION/REFORESTATION: AND POSSIBLY INLAND FISHERIES.

3. GROUP PROPOSED ITINERARY FOR FIELD VISITS ASSUMING NIGERIAN DELEGATION PREPARED TO REMAIN IN US FOR PERIOD APRIL 24-28. THIS PROGRAM TO INCLUDE ONE DAY AT USDA FOR DISCUSSIONS ON APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE USG MAY PROVIDE IN AGRICULTURAL PLANNING, DATA BASE DEVELOPMENT, AND PERTINENT MEETINGS WITH AGRO-BUSINESS. IT MAY ALSO INCLUDE DISCUSSIONS WITH USFWS RE ASSISTANCE TO INLAND FISHERIES SECTOR. SECOND DAY WILL BE VISIT TO USDA FACILITY AT BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND FOR OBSERVATION OF APPLIED RESEARCH. THIRD DAY WILL BE VISIT TO POULTRY, FARMING, AND FISHERY INTERESTS ON EASTERN SHORE OF MARYLAND.

4. SHOULD FULL FMG DELEGATION, OR ONLY AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP MEMBERS, BE WILLING TO REMAIN IN US FOR LONGER PERIOD OF TIME THAN NOW ANTICIPATED, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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USG AGENCIES MORE THAN WILLING TO ARRANGE FOR MORE DETAILED AND EXTENSIVE FIELD VISIT PROGRAM THROUGHOUT US. APPROPRIATE VISITS TO SOUTHWEST OR LOUISIANA AND TEXAS CANNOT BE ACCOMMODATED IN SHORTER SCHEDULE.

5. GROUP AGREED THAT WITHOUT SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF FMG DESIRES IN AGRICULTURE, AND UNTIL COMPOSITION OF FMG DELEGATION IS KNOWN, PLANNING FOR BOTH SUBSTANTIVE TALKS AND FIELD VISITS IS MOST DIFFICULT.

6. PRIOR TO MEETING AID/RDP, USDA AND AF/W CONFERRED WITH IBRD AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS. THESE DISCUSSIONS POINTED TO US ASSISTANCE IN UPGRADING FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE;SPLANNING CAPACITY AS A PARTICULARLY PROMISING POSSIBILITY AND ONE THAT WOULD BE COMPLIMENTARY TO VERY SUBSTANTIAL ONGOING IBRD EFFORT IN AGRICULTURE. TO FACILITATE DISCUSSIONS OF SUCH A PROPOSAL IBRD URGED THAT WE SUGGEST FMG DELEGATION INCLUDE HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE FROM MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE PLANNING SECTION AND MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR OF PLANNING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AGRICULTURE, URBAN DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE094257
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RJKOTT:HMN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780158-0011
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780464/aaaaccne.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f11ed0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 92554
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2990495
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECONOMIC BILATERALS: GROUP III, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
TAGS: EGEN, NI
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f11ed0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014